Spontaneous Celebrations

Winter 1999 Newsletter & Catalog

45 Danforth St., Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 •(617) 524-6373• fax (617) 524-8635
Email: Sponcel@earthlink.net

TROPICAL FIESTA

Saturday, February 27th, 7 PM to 1 AM

With Live Performance by
WILDEST DREAMS, ROSALBA SOLIS & LA PINATA
ISAURA OLIVIERA'S BRAZILLIAN DANCE ENSEMBLE, AND OTHERS.

Once again we will transform the whole building to work in harmony with this year's theme: UNDER THE SEA! Get ready to help us paint the second floor, which we will turn into "An Octopuses' Garden"! Coral reefs, life-size mermaids and mermen, and lots of other under-sea animals and plants will be featured also! JOIN US ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS AND/OR EVENINGS to help us create these and other living sea-things! During February vacation we invite school-age youth to get involved in making the decorations, and pklaying the percussion instruments in performance at the fiesta. After-school programs, schools and groups of friends are invited to create sections of the mural, which will be hung two weeks prior to the event, and completed by other great artists, such as yourself! Let us know if you want to participate. We will also need help in January with treating the fabric with flame retardant, sewing panels together and painting the basic coat! Lots and lots of volunteers are needed to help make this year's Tropical Fiesta the biggest and best ever! We plan to hold a raffle, with the prize being a trip to a real tropical paradise! Please help us sell tickets. They will go on sale one month before the Fiesta. We anticipate some good publicity in the major media, and recommend that interested people purchase their tickets well in advance. Call 524-6373 for more information.

TROPICAL FIESTA WORKSHOP DATES AND TIMES:

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS and EVENINGS, SATURDAY MORNINGS: see DROP-IN ART CLASSES in the YOUTH PROGRAMS section of this newsletter.
FEBRUARY VACATION, 1-5 P.M. Adults and children welcome.

MONDAY FEBRUARY 22: UNDERWATER MARATHON all day and evening! Come join with us to help make lots of art, paint the mural, and have fun !

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 26 FINAL FINISHING TOUCHES: Lots of people needed for the final installations. A "pre-party"!

WISH LIST

for ITEMS such as:

A VCR, to show educational videos; a video camera for documenting our work; sewing machines in working condition; a small light-weight couch for the library; book shelves for the many books we are amassing; a small sound system; stage lights; musical instruments; computers for kids doing homework after school; fabric scraps, (particularly brightly colored, thin cotton); round tables for the dining room; folding chairs for the theater

Wake Up The Earth Celebrates May Day 1999

Spontaneous Celebrations has been celebrating the Wake Up The Earth Festival on the first Saturday in May since 1978. It has become one of the largest urban grassroots celebrations in the Northeast, combining a parade of over 1500 participants, with a fair featuring food and craft sales and artistic performances that attracts well over 5000 people. Each year the Festival has had a particular theme related to social change. Some past themes have included the Native American struggles, the U.N. Conference on The Rights Of The Child, protection of the Environment, international Peace, and multicultural diversity.

In 1993 the Festival presented its first celebration of the heritage of May Day. There were workshops, a pageant and a puppet parade on the history of May Day from the Middle Ages through the first May Day celebration in America in 1727 to the Haymarket struggle for the 8-hour workday.

In 1999 we have a unique opportunity to celebrate May Day, as the first Saturday falls on May 1. We would like to complete a storybook mural on May Day, with emphasis on past and current labor struggles and victories, and to also present skits created and performed by kids and adults on the same themes. We feel that this will be an extraordinary opportunity for those of us who revere and cherish the heritage of May Day to extend its celebration to a wider audience of workers, students, and families in the Roxbury and Jamaica Plain communities. We invite you to blend your ideas, talents, issues and experiences with ours in this project! Together, we can make this May Day the best ever in Boston, and perhaps create a tradition to be renewed annually. Please call at 524-6373 to join with us, or for more info.

CRAFT AND/OR FOOD VENDORS: Please call 524-6373 to reserve a booth at the Wake Up The Earth May Day Festival. We recommend making arrangements with us as early as possible in order to be certain of securing a marketing venue.

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS: Please call us at 524-6373 to discuss the best way to present your literature.

MAY DAY PLANNING MEETING:
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 7:30 P.M.
Help us plan some of the more interesting details of this event! For info call 524-6373.

VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH MAY DAY:
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7,
SUNDAY, MARCH 7,
SUNDAY, APRIL 4.
Help us with the nuts-and-bolts of planning and carrying out this large-scale event! Everyone is welcome! For info, call 524-6373.

WAKE UP THE EARTH FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS!

Participate in our joyful and spirited festival. There is a lot of work to be done! Lots of exciting skills to be taught and learned.

Stage Managers
Craft Vendors,
Theater Works &
Children Activities,
Publicity
and Fundraising
Coordinators!

CALL
(617) 524-6373

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Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
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Spontaneous Celebrations would like to *Thank All of our Friends* for their continued support:

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And All Our Members and Volunteers

THIS PROJECT IS SUPPORTED IN PART BY
MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL

Events

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING CELEBRATION
with
JANICE ALLEN
SUNDATY, JANUARY 17, 2 P.M.
ADMISSION: $5 Adults,
$4 Students & Seniors, $3 Children.

With a range of African and African-American percussion instruments joined with her trademark--acappella vocals, Janice Allen takes her audiences on a rhythmic journey from the African continent to the Carolina Sea Islands. Audience participation is the keystone of a performance by Janice with each song having a chorus, movement or clapping response for the audience. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Boston Cultural Council, a municipal agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council a state agency.

CIYO NINO COCHISE
BENEFIT CONCERT
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5 8-11 P.M.
ADMISSION: $15 or donation.

LIFEWATCH presents folk blues guitarist Kevin So, singer-songwriter Chris Arlen, country singer and Native chanter Dawn Duncan, Caribbean drummer Rashan Byede and saxophonist Professor Harvey Cox of Harvard Divinity School, in a wonderful musical community-building event. Unusual art and poetry will also be presented. All proceeds benefit the Ciyo Nino Cochise Defense Committee, a group that advocates for the health and freedom of a prisoner of mixed Native American and African American descent who is currently serving the twenty-fifth year of a life sentence in Massachusetts. For more info, contact the Comittee, at Community Change, 14 Beacon Street, Boston, 523-0555; or Bonnie Fackre-Cochise, (978) 256-6300.

BRAZILLIAN NIGHT
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19th, and
EVERY THIRD FRIDAY
8:30 P.M.
COSTS: $7

Come and enjoy the culture and the spirit of Brazil at Spontaneous Celebrations! Live concert performances, Ethnic food, and a selction of the best dance music will be the ingredients of a night filled with fun and joy!

A FUND- RAISER FOR SPONTANEOUS CELEBRATIONS:
COMMUNITY MUSIC FORUM
FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 8-11 P.M.
(APRIL 2, MAY 7)
ADMISSION: $5

MARCH 5:
FOOL MOON CIRCUS, JOHANNES AMMON, HA YANG, PATRICK MOTTAZ TRIO, CONIFEROUS QUARTET, THE BROTHERS WACKO, CHARLIE CHAPLIN, AND OTHERS.

Friday. March 5, and every following first Friday of the month, come get a healthy dose of good music, played in the relaxed atmosphere of our very own theater, and featuring some of Jamaica Plain's favorite performers! Hear the folk music of modern-day Europe, contemporary Jazz improvization, string music of Bartók and Ravel, Renaissance ditties, classic cinema with live musical score, and a few more surprises! With two intermissions, vegetarian food available downstairs, and enough good music to satisfy the most ardent music fan, this will be an evening to remember! Every penny we take in will be used to help Spontaneous Celebrations to grow. Cassette recorders welcome! APRIL 2 & MAY 7: CALL FOR INFO: 524-6373.

ACOUSTIC MUSIC NIGHT
EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT,
7:30-10 P.M.
COSTS: FREE WITH DINNER.

Every Thursday night our vegetarian dinners will be accompanied by music played on acoustic (unamplified) instruments. The more intimate, organic sounds of the guitar, violin, 'cello, mandolin, piano and the human voice create a feeling of serenity and peace, ideal for the unhurried enjoyment of fine food. To find out more, or to volunteer to perform, call Safiro at 524-6373.

TROPICAL FIESTA!
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27,
7 P.M.-1 A.M.
With Live Performance by
WILDEST DREAMS, ROSALBA SOLIS &LA PINATA, ISAURA OLIVIERA'S BRAZILLIAN DANCE ENSEMBLE AND OTHERS.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Boston Cultural Council, a municipal agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council a state agency. (See page 1 for details)

BOLIVIAN FIESTA BENEFIT
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 3-6 P.M.
COSTS:
$10 ADULTS, $5 CHILDREN.

This event will benefit the Children's Museum in Sucre, Bolivia. It will comprise an extravaganza of Bolivian music and dance, featuring Sumaj Chasquis, Maria Termini, David Stern, Lewis, Softky and Field. The featured group, Sumaj Chasqui, was founded by Bolivian musicians to foster appreciation of the music and culture of Bolivia. Their music is performed in three languages: Aymara, Quechua and Spanish, and tells of the legends, customs and traditions of Bolivia.In addition, there will be plenty of Bolivian food as well as crafts activities. The Children's Museum in Sucre gives children the opportunity to learn about and explore the rich Bolivian cultural heritage in a hands-on setting. For more info, call Maria at (617) 983-2703. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Boston Cultural Council, a municipal agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council a state agency.

THE PATRICK MOTTAZ JAZZ TRIO
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 9 P.M.
ADMISSION: $6

With Patrick Mottaz on Guitar, Doug Rich on Bass and Taki Masuko on drums, plus special guest vocalist Kaoruko. Come early and enjoy a delicious vegetarian meal before the show!
For info call 524-6373.

A NIGHT OF COMEDY TO BENEFIT SPEAKOUT
SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 8-10 P.M.
ADMISSION: BY DONATION

Please join us for an incredible evening of laughter when some of Boston's finest comedy hits the boards at Spontaneous in a fund-raiser for SpeakOut! For over a quarter of a century SpeakOut has trained people to speak at schools, churches, corporationss and other organizations about Gay and Lesbian issues. For further info call Karen Malme at 364-3217.

VOLUNTEERS INVITED

Volunteers are needed to help with kids in our programs which occurr after school hours. Tutoring and mentoring, preparation of wholesome snacks, the teaching of musical instruments, especially piano, and general assistance in taking care of great kids, are all very welcome. For info, call 524-6373.

CLEMENTINA ACEBEDO

With sadness we announce that Clementina Acebedo, one of the founding members of Spontaneous Celebrations and the first President of its Board of Directors, passed away on January 2, following a long illness. Clementina was a strong and effective community activist in Jamaica Plain for over two decades, not only in her job as Assistant Director of Oficina Hispanica, but also as an engaged member of many community organizations. She was known as someone who got things done, and there are today many in Jamaica Plain who have benefited directly from her efforts. Throughout the course of a difficult illness Clementina remained a steadfast supporter and friend of Spontaneous Celebrations; she will be greatly missed. A native of Paraguay, Clementina is survived by her daughter, current Board member Norma Acebedo-Rey. Rest in peace, dear friend.

Give A Spontaneous "Tropical Fiesta" Gift!

You Are Invited To Become A Member! Join Today!

Spontaneous Celebrations depends on your annual membership fee to support our festivals and activities. You are also welcome to volunteer for festival preparations and weekly events. Also, low income internship and volunteer alternative membership opportunities are available. Call (617) 524-6373 or fill out this form and mail with your check to:

Spontaneous Celebrations, 45 Danforth St., Jamaica Plain. MA 02130

Memberships:
- ❑ **$20 Individual** Newsletter
- ❑ **$35 Family** Newsletter
- ❑ **$50 Friend** Plus a Spontaneous T-Shirt
- ❑ **$75 Sponsor** Plus recognition in Newsletter
- ❑ **$100 Patron** 10% discount on rentals
- ❑ **$250 Benefactor** 20% discount on rentals
- ❑ **$500 Angel** Plus Parking privileges (near Stony Brook T stop)
- ❑ **$1000 Life-Time** Plus hugs & kisses

Volunteer:
- ❑ **Festival Preparations**
- ❑ **Youth Programs**
- ❑ **Arts & Crafts**
- ❑ **Grant Writing**
- ❑ **Membership**
- ❑ **Program Committee**
- ❑ **Building Maintenance**
- ❑ **Board of Directors**
- ❑ **Office Support**

Name:_____ **Telephone:**_____ **Email:**_____

Address:_____ **City:**_____ **Zip:**_____

Gift Note:_____

Youth Programs

We continue to collaborate with other local youth programs, including the Egleston Square Coalition and the Tree Of Life Coalition, in providing Festival Arts workshops for young people at Spontaneous Celebrations. Interested teens will receive instruction in the arts, as well as training in working with young kids. It is our hope that in the future these teens will work with other local programs to bring arts education to kids throughout our community.

TEEN ART TRAINING PROGRAM
Instructor: George Anastos
Information: George at (617) 524-6373
Costs are on a sliding scale of $1-$5
For Teens ages 12-19. Learn basic art techniques: paper maché, fabric printing and dyeing, painting, sculpting and mask making, and also how to teach and manage younger children. When the course is completed you will have the option of working with kids in various community settings. Explore the possibilities of earning money doing what you enjoy! Call George, or come by Spontaneous to sign up. Class limited to 12 participants.

DROP-IN-ART CLASS
WEDNESDAYS 4-6 P.M.
Instructor: George Anastos
SATURDAYS 10:30 A.M. - 12 P.M.
Instructor: Jeanette Martin
Ongoing Registration
Costs: Free to members, donations requested for nonmembers
Children of all ages are welcome! Come draw, paint, play with paper and make things out of recycled materials. Children under 8 are encouraged to bring an adult with them.

UPBEATS: A PERCUSSION CLASS.
TUESDAYS 4:30-6P.M.
Instructor: Nurudafini Pili Abena..
COSTS: Sliding scale.
Learn how to play bongos, congas, djembe, and a wide variety of percussion instruments used in LAtin-based traditional and popular styles of music. For kids 12-18

SPONTANEOUS THEATER GROUP
SUNDAYS 4-6 P.M.
First meeting SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 4 P.M.
This group is currently forming, with the intention of creating performances by (and for) children and adults in our very own theater. We will encourage the participation of whole families as well as individuals; those who sing and/or play musical instruments are welcome, as is everyone who is interested. The group will be led by Roxana Bentes and Femke Rosenbaum. If you are interested in exploring these possibilities with us, please call 524-6373.

WARRIORS OF THE MIND:
A CHESS CLUB FOR KIDS
Every Second and fourth Thursdays
of the month, 4:30-6:00 P.M.
Instructor: Menelik Musa
Ongoing Registration
Admission: 25 cents
Chess is tremendous fun! Two people play; each is commander-in-chief of a military force that includes different kinds of soldiers and a King. When you capture your opponent's King, you have won the game! But Chess is far more than an exciting, sometimes wild, contest of wills and wits - it is also a marvelous device for fostering the healthy development of young people's living skills! In the Canadian province of New Brunswick, Chess is now routinely taught to all children in the second through seventh grade in recognition of its great value in helping kids to master subjects like math, science, foreign languages, and to engage in goal-oriented, clear thinking when dealing with problematic situations. But Chess offers even more: in a recent study of Chess in the classroom, researcher James Liptrap found that students and teachers report increased self-confidence, patience, respect for others, persistence, creativity, sense of responsibility, and self-esteem, in kids who learn Chess. You are invited to drop in any time and enjoy this game that is more than a game, with us. Parents are super welcome, too!

HIP-HOP, REGGAE AND SAMBA DANCE CLASS FOR GIRLS
FRIDAYS 4:30-6 P.M.
Instructors: Isaura Oliviers, dance teacher;
Sula Da SIlva, percussionist.
COSTS: Sliding scale.
We will trace the roots of Hip-Hop to its African origins, and learn what's hot in Brazillian Carnival today. After ten classes we will have a performance! For girls 13-17.

SPONTANEOUS SAMBA
Kids' Drumming Classes (6 -18)
SAMBA, MERINGUE, CALYPSO, HIP-HOP
THURSDAYS, 4:30-6:00 PM
SATURDAYS, 10:30 - 12 Noon.
Instructor: Ricardo Goldstein
Ongoing Registration
Cost: $2 per class
Information: Ricardo at 288-4164.

Learn about other cultures through music! Develop yourself through music! Learn to play, dance, and sing traditional folkloric music from Brazil. Perform in parades, festivals, and shows. We will also learn to make musical instruments, and to adapt our music to Hip-Hop, Reggae, Calypso, and other forms of popular music.

DANZA TEATRO (DANCE THEATER)
SATURDAYS, 11 A.M.-12:330 P.M.
Instructor: Roxanna Bentes.
CHILDREN 5-10.
Join with us to create performaces for the Tropical Fiesta! Bring your ideas about costumes, decorations, stories and songs about life UNDER THE SEA!

STILT WALKING
THURSDAYS 4:30-6 P.M.
Instructor: Roxanna Bentes (See photo page 1).
Learn the ancient and modern art of Stilt Walking. After mastering the techniques, join us in the Wake Up The Earth parade on May 1, 1999. For kids ages 12-18.

JUNK PERCUSSION DRUMMING FOR KIDS
THURSDAYS 4:30-6 P.M.
Instructor: Ricardo Goldstein.
COSTS: Sliding scale.
Learn to make free, wonderful-sounding percussion instruments from recycled materials! Participate, through music, in other cultures! And learn to play Merengué, Samba, Calypso, Hip-Hop, and others. Perform in festivals, parades, and shows! For kids 8-18.

POETRY JUICE: ORIGINAL EXPRESSION
SATURDAYS: 10:30 A.M.-12 P.M.
Instructors: Valerie Linet and Krysti Standley.
GIRLS AGE 9-13.
COSTS: FREE.
Free your poetry, and play with color, movement and sound in a supportive environment of creativity and improvization Open to all girls age 9-13. Bring with you: your imagination, and an appetite for experiment! For info call Valerie at 971-0209.

STORIES FROM HOLLAND
WEDNESDAYS, 6-6:30 P.M.
Instructor: Femke Rosenbaum.
COSTS: Free.
Femke will read and tell stories from her country of origin, The Netherlands. The stories will be translated into English on the spot, and will include works by Holland's favorite children's author, Annie M.G. Schmidt. Most appropriate for school-age kids.

La Piñata

The Latin-American Family Cultural Network

Thanks to the people of Boston that made it possible for our second international trip to Mexico during the summer of 1998. Special thanks to Spontaneous Celebrations, Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Boston Cultural Council.

Meets every Saturday from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Spontaneous Celebrations, presented by Rosalba Solis. For children age 7-18; at the present time there are openings for children of South American families. Come and dance, sing, play, and perform. Fees: $10 per month. Information: Rosalba Solis at (617) 522-6430

Ethnic Gourmet Dinners

Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays: 6:30 - 9:30 P.M.

Safiro and Karoli, caterers extraordinaire, present vegetarian meals drawn from the cuisine of traditional cultures of the world. These naturally-derived, high-fiber dishes are prepared from the freshest ingredients, delicately spiced to please the most discerning palate, and arranged in a way that balances flavor and color in a marvelously blended whole. One member wrote: "The secret aromas of ancient Arabia, the savory tang of freshly-made Indian chutney, the Mexican tortillas stuffed with raisins and spicy vegetables, the sparkling salad, the Persian wild rice, brought me back in a magical way to a long-ago time-before-time in which somehow I had tasted these wonderful things before. Though your food nourished my physical body very well indeed, I felt even more that my spirit had been touched in a loving way."

ETHNIC NATURAL GOURMET CATERING

All of the wonderful flavors and aromas associated with Spontaneous Celebrations' guest caterers are also available for your function or event, whether held on the premises at Spontaneous Celebrations, or elsewhere. The dishes available include, in addition to a full panoply of natural foods of diverse cultures of the world, baked goods of many varieties, specially prepared sauces and chutneys, soups, salads, chilled deserts, and many other sparkling items. The addition of this delightful cuisine to a gathering or a meeting brings a wonderful feeling of conviviality and joyousness, and goes far towards insuring that everyone present will have a happy, memorable time. For further information contact: Safiro at 524-6373.

Classes

To register call (617) 524-6373, or the numbers indicated in the class descriptions, or just come to the first class. Most classes can be joined after the first class; please contact the instructor. Course payments are due at the first class, or see the instructor.

Yoga (Harmonious Union)
MONDAYS and WEDNESDAYS
7:00-8:30 P.M.
Instructor: Menlik Musa, C.H., M.H

Yoga is an ancient system of mind and body development. The various components of Yoga are intended to purify and energize the psychic and physical centers of the mind and the body. This class will cover three areas of Yoga:

The Yoga Exercises include therapeutic postures designed to release bodily tension, balance the endocrine system, tone the muscles and internal organs, as well as stretch and strengthen the ligaments, tendons, and spine. All of the postures are performed in a relaxed manner, with deep breathing and a concentrated mind.

The Breathing Exercises are meant to cleanse and purify the blood, lymph, and cellular fluids of the body. These exercises also vitalize the central nervous system, and stabilize the energy within the psychic centers, enabling us to calm and control our mind.

Meditation and Concentration. One of the principal needs everyone has is to enjoy, from time to time, periods of calmness and peace. Meditation is the method used to cultivate both inner peace and spiritual awareness.

T'ai Chi/Pa Kua
Instructor: Menlik Musa, C.H., M.H
T'ai Chi Short Form: SAT. 9-10:30 A.M.
For further info: 445-9570.

Tai Chi is an ancient system of exercise and moving meditation.It is composed of a series of movements, or postures, which are performed in a slow, rhythmic, continuous manner, flowing from one posture to another. The mind is tranquil, and the thoughts are concentrated upon the flow of breath, which produces a feeling of relaxation and peace.

The purpose of this form of meditation is to develop one's internal energy (life force, or Chi), expand one's consciousness, and achieve harmony and inner peace. When one's Chi is thusly developed, it will vitalize and rejuvenate every cell in the body, improving health and helping to ward off disease.

The martial arts aspect of Tai Chi begins with a phase called "moving hands practice". These exercises are performed with a partner; this arrangement develops our reflexes and sensitivity, and helps the practitioner to understand the function of energy in self-defense. Rather than meeting force with force, one becomes able to feel an opponent's force, and thereby redirect it.

Fees for all Menlik Musa classes:
One class/ week, $40 per month.
Two classes/week, $65 per month.
Three classes/ week, $85 per month.
For further info: 445-9570.

Popular Brazilian Dance
FRIDAYS 6-7:30 P.M.
Instructor: Isaura Oliviera dance teacher,
Sula da Silva drummer
Adults and teen agers 13-18,
Cost: adults $10 /class, teens $5/class.

This class is open to all levels and ages, beginning at age 13. We will learn and practice the popular dances of Brazil, including Samba, Maracato Afoxe, and Orisha.

Alternative Medicine Forum
First and Third MONDAYS of the month
7:30-8:45 P.M.
Coordinator: Joel Ockenheim
COST: $5 per session,
or 12 sessions for $45.
Information: (617) 983-2731.

Our working definition of alternative medicine is: that medicine which is currently in increasing use in clinical practice by qualified, credentialed physicians in the United States and other countries, but which, owing to its general unsuitability for commercial development, is little known to the average health services consumer. Some of the topics we will explore are: the new nutritional therapies for the heart: Coenzyme Q10, L-Carnitine, Hawthorn extract, Homocysteine-controlling vitamins, and cholesterol-balancing foods; safe herbal remedies for colds and flu; traditional ethnic treatments for cancer, and their possible adaptation to our contemporary needs; latest research in Europe and Japan, where medicines regarded as alternative in the United States have become in many cases standard therapies; buyers' discount clubs for nutritional supplements; and the new (for Westerners) approach to coordinating diet with blood type. Come on in.

Continued on next page

Classes

Safiro's Natural Ethnic Cooking Class
TUESDAYS 6:30-9, SATURDAYS 10:30-1
Costs: $15 per session.

One of Safiro's students, Djamil Graham, writes: "What is it that smells like Heaven, sounds like joy, and absolutely melts in your mouth? It's Safiro's cooking class! It's a hands-on learning of the basics of preparing everything from a tasty basic rice dish to the more complex Indian dhal and masala dishes, complete with sauces, chutneys and salads. Safiro teaches with a richness of culture and experience, in a framework of health-enhancing dietary awareness, and with a very special reverence and gratitude for all of Humanity's food traditions. It's easy to 'drop in' for a class, or become a 'regular' like me!" The Spontaneous Celebrations kitchen is Safiro's classroom! The fee includes all of the ingredients for the meal the class prepares and then feasts upon at the end of the session.

Weekly Meditation Circle
WEDNESDAYS, 8:30-9:30 P.M.
Instructor: Alexandra Stella De Maris, Sunray Meditation Society
FREE; Donation welcomed.
For Info: Nicholas Smith, 522-5233.

This practice includes moving, sitting, and chanting meditations from the Cherokee and Tibetan Buddhist traditions. It is open to everyone, from beginner to experienced meditator. Sunray Meditation Society, of which the Venerable Dhyani Ywahoo is the Spiritual Director, is an international organization dedicated to planetary peace, and to the honoring of the Earth and all of our relations.

Drumcall
TUESDAYS 7-8:30 P.M.
Instructor: Nurudafina Pili Abena
Cost: $15 per class;
5-weeks' advance payment required.
Information: 731-2720.
Nuru's course, partially based upon her CD of the same name, will entail learning a vocal drum language in the traditional manner (call and response), which will incorporate drum rhythms from the Manding/Yoruba, Caribbean, Afro/Latin and Afro/American styles of musical culture. Students should be prepared to use their voices as well as their hands! First-time drummers are welcome, as well as more advanced players. We will use an array of percussion instruments, including shekere, cowbells, cungas, etc. If you have a percussion instrument, bring it!

Grupo Capoeira Angola
WEDNESDAYS, 5:30 - 7:00 P.M.
Instructor: Manhoso
Cost: Single classes: $10. One month of classes: $50. Kids 8-15 receive a discount; see the instructor.
Capoeira is a tradition that includes martial arts, dance, singing, and percussion. Born in Africa, Capoeira was brought to perfection in Bahia, a northern state of Brazil. In the wisdom and profound knowledge of its masters, Capoeira reaches out to everyone. Whether you are young, old, shy, inexperienced or inactive, Capoeira welcomes your involvement.

Singing Sacred Song
WEDNESDAYS, 8 - 9:30 P.M.
Instructor: Joel Ockenheim
Cost: $55 For Ten Sessions
Information: 983-2731
This course is open to all who sing, or would like to begin to sing. We live in a universe governed by harmonic flow, in which every known form of energy moves according to musical principle, and when we sing, we are participating in the universe in a way that reconciles and blends our deepest and most personal self-awareness with all of the universe around us. We will visit some of the many forms mankind has devised over the centuries to plumb this great mystery, including drone chants, resonant intervals, bells, gongs, whistles, and other means of sonic exploration. Participants may look forward to an adventure into existence itself.

An Introduction To Astrology
THURSDAYS 8 - 9:30 P.M.
Instructor: Paul Gorbel
Cost: $55 For Ten Sessions

This course will offer an overview of astrology as it is practiced in the Western countries today: as a way to explore one's inner identity, as a tool for understanding the many cycles of life, as an aid to plumbing the depth of human relationships, and in many other ways. The nature of the planets, sensitive points in the chart, the mythic psychology of celestial events, astrological interactions between individuals, the signs of the Zodiac, and general interpretation of the chart, will be covered in depth. Midway through the course each participant will receive their own computer-calculated chart, (cost included in fee), and these will be discussed at length in class. Come and discover your celestial identity.

Tango Night
LAST FRIDAY of Month
Dinner 7:30 P.M.
Dancing 9:00 P.M.
Instructor:Aidana
Admission: $6, $12 with dinner
Come and danceArgentina's danza fantastica! Rare recordings made in Argentina provide the music.

Come & Play: An Improv Comedy Workshop
SUNDAYS, JANUARY 24,
FEBRUARY 14 and 28. 11A.M.-2 P.M.
Instructor: Karen Malme.
COSTS: $7
This ongoing workshop meets on the 2nd. and 4th. Sundays of each month. You can come for one or for all of them, and experience is not required. It is a nice environment in which to learn and enhance your improv skills while having a heck of a fun time. For more info, call 364-3217.

Yoruba Dance And Drum Workshops
SATURDAYS, FEBRUARY 6,13, 20,
MARCH 6, 20, 2:30-6 P.M.
Instructor: Hakeem Alabi
ADMISSION:$20 for one, or $35 for both workshops.
You are invited to join us in an afternoon of authentic Yoruba dancing and drumming. You will learn how the Yoruba language and the talking drum are intertwined, and how to make your own drum talk! Hakeem Alabi is one of the leading "Gan-gan" (talking) drummers of Africa, currently residing in the U.S. If you own a talking drum, please bring it with you. If you do not, you may rent or purchase one from Cultural Excellence, Inc.; for more info contact Folassade Olatungi at 266-5125.

Brazilian Percussion Class
FRIDAYS 7:30-9P.M.
Instructor: Sula Da Silva.
COSTS: $10 per class.
Learn the contemporary and traditional rhythms of Brazil, such as Candomblé, Samba, Pagode, Maracatu, Xaxado, Baião, ßamba-Reggae, etc. Open to all levels. For info: 524-6373.

Mascaras (Mask Making)
MONDAYS, 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.
Instructor: Roxana Bantes
Cost: Donations
Learn to make many different types of masks, to be used on Brazilian Night and the Tropical Fiesta.

Class Forming: World Percussion Class
FRIDAY NIGHTS
Instructor: Guillaume Pouget **522-2118**
Explore the art of hand drumming through the study of folkloric rhythms of West Africa, Brazil, Cuba and the Middle East. Learn djemba,.cungas, dum duns, bangos and small percussion instruments.

Interview with Femke

One cold and blustery morning early this January, Spontaneous Celebration's founder Femke Rosenbaum sat by a crackling fireplace with newsletter editor Ockenheim and a cassette recorder to look back on the early days of Spontaneous Celebrations, and discuss current and future plans.

Q: You were born and raised in The Netherlands; what brought you to Jamaica Plain?
A: I first came to America when I was 17, as an exchange student in Orange County, California. I came for a second time when I was 23, and married my husband; Peter, at the time, was a graduate student in Cambridge. We ended up in J.P. when a friend offered us this beautiful house for only $21,000. I enjoyed the diversity of the neighborhood; it made me feel less like a stranger.

At that time there was a lot of neglect and disorder in J.P. Many people blamed this on the young people and their parents, so I decided to work with kids to make a better community. I became active in several local organizations such as the Food Coop, the J.P. Arts council, and the Southwest Corridor Coalition, which resisted, successfully, the federal government's plan to run highway I 95 straight down the middle of Jamaica Plain, and my husband joined the board of Southwest Corridor Farm. I learned about folkloric traditions from Deborah Brien, who taught classes at the Cambridge Adult Education Center. When we explored these traditions with a group of friends, I realized that in past times traditional rituals had been celebrated by entire communities, and we began to talk about doing a spring festival for the whole community of Jamaica Plain. People seemed to like this idea, and we invited Deborah to talk to a group of us about rituals in ancient communities. She explained that one of the inner purposes of celebrating May 1st was to "wake up the Earth" from its long Winter's sleep. We decided to call our event the "Wake Up The Earth" Festival.

That was in the Spring of 1978. I never intended to create an annual event, but once the Festival happened it was a tremendous success, and everybody said that we had to do it again the next year. And so we did, and every year after that as well. One year we were tired and had no money to support the Festival, so we put a notice in the newspapers announcing that the Festival wasn't happening that year. Well, there was an enormous protest. People said: "How can we go into the Summer without it?" So the "protestors" were invited to help make it happen and raise the money for it, and they did! After that there was no stopping it.

The original group that met with Deborah and myself to start the W.U.T.E. Festival were mostly mothers with young children who were members of of the Food Coop, the S.W. Corridor Farm and the J.P. Neighborhood House. From the beginning I wanted to bring in people who would represent the different cultures in our community, and so I went looking for them. I found Betsaida Guttierez, Clementina Acebedo, Felicity Oyola and the Pabon brothers from the Latino community; the Paige Academy from Roxbury also joined forces with us, representing the African American community. A few years later Rosalba Solis and Alica Johnson and her family also became active participants. Most of the original members of the group are still involved; Connie Barbour, for example, has been designing our T-shirts for 20 years now. I think we all love celebrations and getting in touch with our own roots, as well as learning from each other.

Each year we would get together around the same time, about when the sap starts to rise in the trees. And of course we always found ourselves wishing that we had started earlier! That's why later, when we formed an organization, we called it Spontaneous Celebrations.

Q: When was that?
A: The real beginning happened, appropriately enough, on April 1, 1991, when our own 'phone line was installed in the basement of the old Firehouse Art Center. Although some of our core group were active in the J.P. Arts Council, which administered the Firehouse, we felt that it would be a good idea to have an additional organization of those who had a passion for the festivals. At the time, in our basement workshop, we were producing most of the puppets, costumes and stilts that were used in the Festivals. We had, in addition to our group of adults, a loyal bunch of teen-agers who would come to work with us in these projects, because it was so much fun. As May 1st would draw near, sometimes we'd be working 'round the clock for several days and nights in a row, and this useage of the Firehouse space, perhaps in combination with a certain independance our group had begun to accquire ' from the other doings of the Firehouse, seems to have inspired a certain anxiety in the minds of some of the Firehouse staff. So we offered to rent the basement from them for $8,000 a year. To our amazement, they refused, although they were in a fairly desperate financial situation at the time. Things came to a head, and we decided to look for a more appropriate venue. We moved out of the Firehouse in May '93, and considered renting space at Cornwall Studios, the NDC, and Urban Edge. After a visit to the latter one day, I was biking past the old German Workers' Club on Danforth Street, and it struck me that this might be the perfect place for us.

Of course, the property was in the process of being sold, for an enormous sum of money, to a church. I was told, however, to call the realtor back in a few months, just in case something were to change. It turned out that the place was in such an advanced state of disrepair that the banks wouldn't give a mortgage on it, and the arrangements with the church collapsed. So we became really interested in it, and in July of '94 we were fortunate enough to accquire it for $97,000, a fraction of the realtor's original asking price, by taking out a mortgage on my house.

The building was in pretty bad shape. Lots of the plumbing had been stripped out, the roof leaked, there were graffitti everywhere, and it was, in general, a mess. I asked an architect friend to estimate the costs to bring the building up to Code, and it came to $70,000. So I went around the community and asked for volunteer help to fix the place up. Plumbers, carpenters, electricians, painters and roofing specialists came and gave generously, astonishingly generously, of their time and expertise; in March '95 we officially passed the Code with less than $3,000 spent!

Today Spontaneous Celebrations is in part the organization that manages the space in our building, which is rented by people who run their own businesses, such as the Ethnic Kitchen, the Yoga and T'ai Chi classes, and La Pinata. We also offer festival arts workshop programs, and classes in various subjects, to youths and adults. In addition, we rent space to hold events to outside groups whose social aims are in general harmony with our own, and also for private functions. All of these programs, administered by a core group of staff, amount to a community arts collective.

Q: Does this show the influence of your Dutch background?
A: Holland does have a strong tradition of "village houses", in which the local community initiates programs and events. However, I was a teacher in this country for many years, and I did learn a great deal from the "Open Classroom" movement, one theme of which was the creation of structures that would encourage learning through exploration. Our center is, in a way, an open class room for the community, where we all can explore and learn together. Of course, we have so far barely scratched the surface of what is possible,and we are still struggling for survival financially. Recently we attempted to run an after-school program for a limited number of kids, but we found that we couldn't maintain its funding. Later we realized that we can serve a lot more kids by collaborating with existing programs in the community, and offering festival arts programs. We've just had a fantastic week with more than 30 kids who formed a junk percussion band, made wonderful costumes, and performed the Samba in the First Night Parade. They were spread out all over the building, totally engaged in what they were doing. When people tell us that the place has a good feeling to it, we think of all of the creative energy that is released here, and give thanks.

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Parties, Dances, Weddings,
Rehearsal Space, Meetings

RENTAL OF SPACE
At
Spontaneous Celebrations

Our two halls, with a capacities of 100 and 150 people,are available for rental, afternoons, evenings, or on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis. Excellent rates!

Information and Reservations:
(617) 524-6373

Spontaneous Celebrations Directions

T Stop:

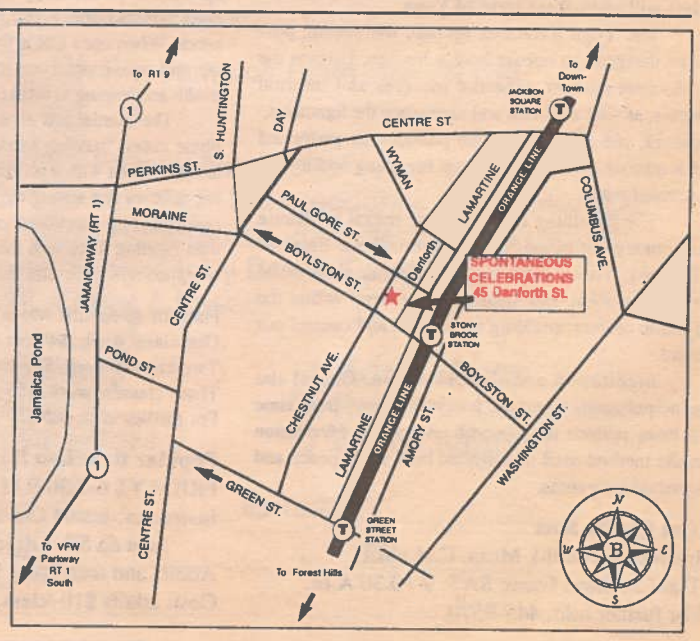
From the Orange Line Stony Brook T Station exit right on to Boylston St. cross Lamartine St. (lights) go short block 25 feet to Danforth Street. Turn right; Spontaneous is ahead to the left.

From Jamaicaway

Follow Jamaicaway (Rt 1) from Rt 9 to Perkins Street. Turn left at lights. Go straight across South Huntington Ave. to Centre Street. Turn right at circle on to Centre Street take first left on to Paul Gore. Follow Paul Gore till it ends on Lamartine St. Turn right. Go to Boylston St (lights), turn right on to Boylston St. and go 1/4 block up to Danforth Street. Turn right; Spontaneous is ahead to the left.

From 1-93

Take Mass. Ave. exit. Go straight on to Melnea Cass Blvd which runs into Columbus Ave. Turn left on Columbus Ave. to Centre Street. Turn right on to Centre. Just past the Jackson Square T stop turn left on to Lamartine St. Go to Boylston St (lights), turn right on to Boylston St., go 1/4 block to Danforth Street. Turn right; Spontaneous is ahead to the left.

From Hyde Park, Roslindale & Dorchester

Take Rt. 203 to Forest Hills and exit to Washington Street. Follow Washington Street (north toward downtown) to Boylston St (not far from Egleston Square). Turn left and follow Boylston St. straight past Amory St.(lights), Stony Brook T station, Lamartine Street (lights) to Danforth Street. Turn right; Spontaneous is ahead to the left.